

## **KUUF Committee Reports – 2023**

### **Caring Committee**

The 2022/23 Caring Committee has been working to provide:

1. "Relief services" when requested by a caregiver who needs a break.
2. Remembering members who live alone through "random acts of caring" which entails the delivery of "a surprise caring bag of treats".
3. Helping a person or family from the general community, if help is requested with rent or food money. This year we helped with rent money. KUUF makes the payment in lieu of just giving the requesting person the rent money.
4. The Committee works closely with Heidi who "provides pastoral care" when needed.

Committee members: Linda Rulison, Lora Repp, Barry Fink, Jack Jobst, Heidi Bresnahan and Paul Mitchell.

### **Grow An Extra Row**

Our third year (2022) of the "Grow an Extra Row" project was not as successful as in the two previous years. The season began with Paul Mitchell installing an irrigation system in the communal garden, followed by a well-attended communal garden work party that involved raking, rock picking, planting seeds/seedlings, placing a weed barrier and restringing the fishing line fence, and an enjoyable picnic lunch.

Unfortunately, due to high winds and perhaps poor soil (??), the garden did not produce as expected. Thanks to the generosity of other KUUF members gardens, we were able to do one extra-large delivery to several families. The communal garden will be 'closed' for the 2023 growing season but we are still hoping members will contribute enough produce to provide at least two deliveries for several families.

Heidi Bresnahan and Lora Repp

### **Hospitality Committee Report**

The KUUF hospitality responsibilities were re-examined and reconfigured this year. Instead of one person managing hospitality for Sunday mornings, a two - person team was established.

The Hospitality Team took on the responsibility of setting up BHK each week – relieving Fellowship volunteers of that task. Fellowship members continue to be relied upon to provide snacks for coffee hour and clean-up help after the service.

The Hospitality Team invited KUUF members and friends to a Holiday Open House hosted by Heidi Bresnahan at her home. The team assisted with a variety of special events on Sunday mornings and is currently working with the worship committee to set up an outdoor Sunday service this summer.

Submitted by:

Lora Repp and Heidi Bresnahan - Hospitality Team

### **Membership Committee**

The Membership submitted annual statistics to UUA in January 2023 and reported a total of 79 members. Average weekly attendance for last year was 42. Sunday services moved from zoom to hybrid in April and attendance remains evenly split between those attending virtually and those present at BHK.

The Membership Committee continues to work with Martha to keep the membership directory updated.

Rev. Stacy Craig invited new members to meet with her to learn more about KUUF and Unitarian Universalism. She is offering a New Members Service on 6/4/23.

As of the date of this report KUUF has 80 active members.

Submitted by:

Lora Repp – Chair

### **Justice Ministry**

The KUUF Justice Ministry formed in May of 2021. Our 7 members work to focus on issues that challenge systemic injustice and offer systemic change. May 2022 to May 2023 was our 2nd year.

The following are highlights of our activities in the past year.

- Held a virtual Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Offered an Energy Justice movie in collaboration with Green Sanctuary

- Collected \$1215 for Ukraine relief from our KUUF members and friends.
- Sponsored a booth at the Spring Flare event at MTU
- Sponsored a booth at Keweenaw Pridefest
- Wrote a Letter to the Editor in response to a cartoon in the local paper depicting immigrants as terrorist.
- Participated in a variety of rallies and marches and encouraged other KUUF members to join us.
- Supported gun laws in Houghton County, and sent postcards to thank Commissioner Gretchen Janssen for her support of our Michigan Gun Laws.
- Invited a presenter to forums discussing the 8th Principle and the proposed changes to UU nationally related to Article 2
- Worked with Michigan UU the vote.

Respectfully submitted by Janeen Stephenson, Chair

### **Publicity Committee**

1. Forums: We have promoted every forum this year in several local calendars. Additionally, Jenn Donovan has reported on several of our forums in articles to the Daily Mining Gazette and the Copper Beacon. Stacy Craig has been contributing articles to the Gazette on her own.
2. Facebook: We have posted events and UU Holidays on Facebook. We have also used Facebook to promote justice related events in our community.
3. Radio and Television: We managed to get a full year of sponsorship for Washington Week in Review on public television, and have sponsorship on WNMU and WGGL radio as well, but not as much as previous years.
4. Digest: We have helped to promote events in the digest when appropriate.
5. Website: we are monitoring the website, and have made changes this year, particularly in representing our “Dream Team” on that venue.

Publicity Committee: Miriam Pickens, Barry Fink, Jenn Donovan

### **Children’s R.E. Committee**

The children’s R.E. committee recruited 16 volunteers to provide childcare on Sundays. Since in-person services resumed we have had children on 29 Sundays. We have two adults each Sunday. Our 16 volunteers have provided care for children 58 times. This is an extraordinary commitment to our

children. We recruit people for every Sunday Service. This willingness to provide for children is deeply appreciated and benefits all of the KUUF community.

Our Sunday Dream Team has provided a Moment for all Ages on Sundays and children have been actively engaged during this time which benefits all in attendance on Sundays.

Stacy and others have offered activities that are family-friendly, including, making bird feeders, gathering pine branches to make a meditative spiral and get-togethers for children and families to play together.

Submitted by Janeen Stephenson

### **Personnel Committee**

Members: Elen Maurer – chair

Janeen Stephenson

Bill Leder

vacancy

With the reminder that the Personnel Committee deals with issues involving non-ministerial employees, KUUF was fortunate this past year in that we retained all our existing staff and successfully brought a new Tech Communication Provider position into full operation. The Personnel Committee held conversations with staff to evaluate, support, and share expectations. The Personnel Committee reviewed the UUA wage and salary guidelines and made recommendations to the Board regarding compensation. This Committee also ensures that required employment postings are up to date and that Workers Compensation premiums are accurate and paid.

### **KUUF WORSHIP COMMITTEE 2022-2023 REPORT**

This year has been successful for the Committee. Our Search Committee, after extensive work, was unable to secure a full-time minister through the UUA search process. We were able to recruit Bucky Beach, Carol Grafford, Rachel Tarpey and Sarah Semmler Smith to provide Sunday services, starting in September, 2022. Pastors Beach and Smith are Lutheran ministers, the former

retired from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and the latter a minister at Finlandia University. Carol Grafford is a Buddhist teacher while Rachel Tarpey is a member of our congregation. All were engaged by the board on one-year contracts.

As we were about to institute our service schedule in September with them, Elen received an inquiry from a UU Minister in Ashland, Stacy Craig, about a quarter-time position at KUUF. After interviewing Pastor Craig, the Board of Trustees agreed to a one-year contract.

We have been happy with the quality of our services based on member feedback. We hope to continue with them during the next year. Unfortunately, Rachel Tarpey is unable to continue due to other responsibilities. We continue to maintain a library of recorded services from UU MidAmerica for use as needed. We want to thank Paul Mitchell for seeking out and recruiting the original group of presenters.

We continue with our combination of in-person and virtual services. Janeen Stephenson has taken on the role of virtual service coordinator. Leonard Bohmann, her husband, relinquished his duties of running the virtual services when we hired a paid staff member, Davi Sprague, who has done a good job in that role. Hybrid services are continuing as it allows senior members and those who live elsewhere to continue their connection with KUUF year around.

There was extensive discussion about air quality which resulted in the construction of two air purifiers to lower the CO2 level at BHK as well as a way to reduce possible COVID infections. We continued asking members to wear masks as a public health concern. Our Regathering Committee is removing the mask requirement as COVID is no longer a pandemic. However, members should decide for themselves whether or not they will wear masks based on their particular circumstances. COVID has not gone away as people, at greatly reduced rates, are still becoming infected.

The Committee has been successful in recruiting members to do the chalice lighting and closing, as needed, at our services.

Since we are “broadcasting” our services via Zoom, our music director found after researching that we need to pay a licensing fee of \$300 annually for the

right to perform certain songs. This is both a legal and ethical choice on the part of KUUF.

Childcare and Moments for All Ages during services continue. Janeen Stephenson had responsibility for lining up two adults to go upstairs when children are present. Miriam Pickens has picked up that role going forward.

Finally, Jack Jobst and Janeen Stephenson have decided to retire from the Committee. We thank them for their service on the Committee as well as many other roles at KUUF.

We wish to give our heartfelt gratitude for the work of those mentioned above during the past year as well as members who have volunteered. Their help is what makes our Fellowship.

Barry Fink, chair

### **Regathering Team**

Elen Maurer

Janeen Stephenson

Melissa Williamson

Julie Badel

The Regathering Team formed to examine data about the Covid pandemic and make recommendations to the Board about how to protect the most vulnerable among us. Throughout the early Covid days, the group met regularly, checking transmission, positivity and hospital capacity data. At the end of this year the Regathering Team made what they hope will be their final recommendation to the Board. With the construction and use of the Corsi-Rosenthal boxes and the return to function of the BHK air exchange system, the Regathering Team advised a "mask optional" policy starting 5/28/23. The Regathering Team encourages everyone to keep their boosters current and stay informed about local conditions. The Regathering Team will go dormant unless a need arises for their work.

### **Ministers' Evaluation and Compensation Committee**

Elen Maurer

Elaine Eikenberry

Pete Ekstrom

This long dormant committee was repopulated this year in response to KUUF's dream team approach to Sunday worship and other ministerial services. The team met with the Sunday presenters, our UU minister Rev. Stacy Craig, and our lay pastoral care provider, Heidi Bresnahan, to see how things are going for them and to look ahead together. Regular check-ins with our ministerial service providers will ensure expectations are clear and shared and any problems are addressed promptly. The team enjoyed the first conversations with our thoughtful, caring and fun Dream Team. This team will be responsible for creating and maintaining the contracts and agreements with our presenters and minister and communicating with the Board.

## **Library**

Annual Report 2022-2023

Here I present my library report since our last annual meeting in June, 2022.

The mission of our library follows: "To increase religious literacy among patrons, to make a positive difference in the lives of our members and friends, and to help them on their journey."

Our library has materials in two locations. First, there is the library cart, containing items that I find appropriate. One side has most of our UU materials, while the other side has other religious materials and miscellaneous. Prominent books are displayed on top. There is a brown envelope to deposit check-out cards, with detailed library instructions on one side of the envelope. The cart should be on display before, during, and after the service. At all other times the cart is covered and stored next to the piano.

The second library location is in the cabinets. Items in the cabinets are old and outdated, duplicate copies, or things that I do not find interesting or important, and for general storage.

We added a couple of items. We also have a box of donated materials, that have yet to be processed. Thank you to those who donated books.

Our library's \$50 budget remains unspent.

## Goals for 2023-2024

We should establish goals for the upcoming year. We should be mindful of our mission statement. An ongoing goal remains unchanged—to use the online bibliography to help increase our circulation, and, “increase religious literacy among patrons.” Hopefully, people that used the document and checked-out materials would experience a “positive difference” in their lives, and “help them on their journey.” To find the catalog, go to [keweenawuu.org](http://keweenawuu.org) and click on “Connection.”

If someone wants to obtain a particular item, and participates on Zoom, please contact me (or another member) and we will try to arrange delivery of the item.

Thank you to all who have provided feedback or made other contributions and helped me on my journey. I appreciate it. If you need any assistance at all, do not hesitate to contact me. My email: [library@keweenawuu.org](mailto:library@keweenawuu.org). My landline: (906) 482-1173.

Submitted by Bob Fiandt

## **2023 KUUF Green Sanctuary Committee Annual Report**

*(G. S. committee: Carol Ekstrom, chair, Heidi Bresnahan, Joan Chadde, Paul Mitchell, Lora Repp, Anne Roberts, Linda Rulison, David Watkins)*

Submitted by Carol Ekstrom, chair

Green Sanctuary’s aspiration is expressed in its vision: “Together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living earth central to our lives.” This aspiration is translated into Action Projects. The projects focus on four areas: Worship and Celebration; Religious Education; Environmental Justice; Sustainable Living in this time of Climate change.

We have developed 25 Action Projects since our start in 2015. Fourteen are currently active, and two have moved to other committees. Many of the projects went well this year. If you are interested in a detailed report with photos, contact a committee member.



### 1. Forum - Winter Gardening.

If you've enjoyed gardening, or eating fresh produce this summer and don't want to stop, join us Sunday, we'll hear from Boersma Farm (Hoop gardening); Minnie's Farm (aquaponics); Living Vitamins (Microgreens). This will be followed by a Green Tour of the SDH, Sustainability Demonstration House and their hydroponics project.

### 2. Worship Service - Water and the Ways We Worship

For Sunday's water ceremony, we will reflect on the varying ways that we nourish our spirit in nature, especially in and around water. There will be time for each person to share what water means to them. In preparation for Sunday, SDH hydroponics set-up you could think about what water means to you for recreation, work, spirituality, nourishment, etc. Try to craft a reflection that you could share in less than two minutes.

### 3. Forum - Indigenous Identity and Spirituality

Dr. Martin Reinhardt (Anishinaabe Ojibway) will share insights about the relationship between identity and spirituality. Reinhardt asserts that a collective recentering of our shared human identities is essential to the health of Mother Earth and our relationship with her and our plant and animal relatives. Join us for an engaging discussion about living in circles and spiraling through time.

Presenter Bio: Dr. Martin Reinhardt is an Anishinaabe Ojibway citizen of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians from Michigan. He is a tenured professor of Native American Studies at Northern Michigan University. He is the president of the Michigan Indian Education Council, and the lead singer and songwriter for the band Waawiyeyaa (The Circle). His current research focuses on revitalizing relationships between humans and Indigenous plants and animals of the Great Lakes Region. He holds both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Sociology, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership. His doctoral research focused on Indian education and the law with a special focus on treaty educational provisions.

Dr. Reinhardt's Cookbook entitled Decolonizing Diet Project was purchased and added to our KUUF library.

## Forum - What's Next for Energy in the UP?

Change is the new normal in energy. Not just price swings for propane, there are more choices for transportation and powering our homes. What was learned by the UP Energy Task Force?

**Presenter Bio:** Jenn Hill is a consultant with 5 Lakes Energy, a statewide energy policy think tank, focusing on energy policy and analysis. She has 25 years' experience in government, business, nonprofits and philanthropy. Most recently, she served for 2 years on the UP Energy Task Force looking at our region's future energy needs and options. She is in her second term as a Marquette City Commissioner (since 2018). She earned a M.S. in environmental planning at MIT and a BA cum laude from Barnard College. A 4-H kid with family roots in the industrial and agricultural Midwest, Ms. Hill is the third generation in her family to fish in the UP, and the first lucky enough to live here.

## Forum, Sustainability, Here and There

The term "sustainability" is everywhere. It's hard to find a product or a company that isn't touting some sustainability accomplishments or commitments. Right here at Michigan Tech, there is a person (me!) with "sustainability" in their job title! But what does it mean and why does it matter? We'll explore some foundational concepts and trends around sustainability and discuss how "sustainability thinking" can alter trajectories at the individual, organizational, community, and global levels. It will be an interactive session with some live Zoom polls and moments for personal reflection, so please plan on engaging with your thoughts and ideas.

**Presenters Bio:** Alan Turnquist is the Director of Sustainability and Resilience at Michigan Tech. Previously, he held various positions at Michigan Tech and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, mostly managing programs focusing on sustainability and food systems. He studied at the UW-Madison where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Latin American Studies, a Master's in

Applied Economics, and a Juris Doctorate with a focus on environmental policy. He lives in Houghton with his wife, Erin Syth, and two curious children (Lila, 7 and Sami, 3).

## 6. Worship Service of Earth and Family Days

Since 1970, April 22nd has been set aside as a day to remember and fight for the ecological safety and future of our planet. What has been your own journey with care of creation? Can science and logical evidence alone bring about the collective change our planet demands? Where do you find hope, when cynicism and despair on the topic grow as readily as crabgrass? (And, is there such a thing as a weed, in the first)? Pr. Sarah Semmler Smith leads the service.

## **Religious Education - Kids**

### **ELEVEN MINI-GRANTS BOOST SCHOOL GARDENS**

KUUF in collaboration with Michigan Tech Center for Science & Environmental Outreach (CSEO), Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, Friends of the Land of Keweenaw (FOLK), and Keweenaw Land Trust, created a \$75 Garden Mini-Grant Program to help start or improve eleven existing school or community gardens before the end of the school year. B-K SHARE is our Sustainability Education Project for BHK families/students and KUUF members/Kids RE. We started 3'25'22, with the installation of our jointly owned composter.

Next, we will experiment with recycling plastic film, start a pollinator garden, tend our tree farm. and possibly build a solar demonstration project.

## **Environmental Justice**

- Volunteering for Habitat for Humanity 1/23/22

Bob Drake stepped up to carry on Don Arkin's dedicated contribution.

INSERT PHOTO

- Sustainability Film Series completed its 12th year. Photo by John Gale

INSERT PHOTO

- 'Grow an Extra Row-Gardening our Souls '

Our second year (2021) of the 'Grow an Extra Row' project was successful. The season began on 5/29/21 with a communal garden work party where the ground was raked, rocks were picked and a fence was erected. A delicious

lunch was provided by Lucinda Enderby. Throughout the growing season, three deliveries were made that included vegetables, flowers, and herbs from our various gardens: Chadde, Churning Rapids, Communal, Hornstra, Mitchell, Perkins, and Rulison. We increased the number of families to 6 and included a vegetable cookbook for each. All recipients were ery grateful.

### **Sustainable Film Series: Issues & Dialogue**

3rd Thursdays each month, January - May

Jan. 27 – Chasing Coral (88 min.) (2021) Netflix and YouTube

Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an alarming rate. Between 2014 – 2017,

Chasing Coral captured the most severe bleaching event in recorded history—75% of corals suffered or died from heat stress brought on by climate change. Discussion Facilitator: Casey Huckins, Professor, MTU Dept. of Biological Sciences

Feb. 17 – Fauci (2021) (104 mins.) Link provided for 1-week.

This National Geographic documentary chronicles the life of Dr. Anthony Fauci, world-renowned infectious disease specialist and longest-serving public health leader in Wash. D.C. He has overseen the U.S. response to the past 40 years of outbreaks— HIV/AIDS, SARS and Ebola.

Discussion Facilitator: Dr. Terry Kinzel, Gerontology & Internal Medicine

Mar 17 Pumped Dry: The Global Crisis of Vanishing Groundwater (2021) (64 min.) YouTube.

World Water Day Event Much of the planet relies on groundwater., from the U.S. to Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America – so much water is pumped from the ground that aquifers are being rapidly depleted and wells are going dry. The film investigates stories about

people on four continents confronting how to safeguard their aquifers for the future and how to cope as the water runs out.

Discussion Facilitator: Dr. John Gierke, Dept. of Geological & Mining and Engineering & Science (invited)

OWN: Land. Block. Home (2021) (46 min.) YouTube

How the residents of North Memphis work with local government to turn their neighborhoods into a healthy and livable place. Solutions to low income neighborhood homes in disrepair, food deserts & Urban farming; community empowerment.

Discussion Facilitator: Shelby & Montgomery Counties Community Resource Agency (invited)

May 19 – The Ants & The Grasshopper: How do you change someone’s mind about the most important thing in the world? (2021) 1-week link provided

What do we owe each other in the face of an existential crisis like the climate emergency? That’s the question at the heart of this documentary exploring how power and privilege shape climate justice and food justice from Africa to America – and how we might move forward together. (74 min.)

Discussion Facilitator: Dr. Sarah Green, Interim Chair, Dept. of Chemistry (invited)

Time: 7:00-8:00 pm facilitated discussion Cost: FREE. \$5 suggested donation per film is appreciated. Make donation online.

Location: Online. Register [HERE](#) and a zoom link will be emailed for each monthly film and/or facilitated discussion.

Co-sponsors: Friends of the Land of Keweenaw, Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, College of Forest Resources & Environmental Science, Keweenaw Land Trust, Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, MTU Dept. of Social Sciences Sustainability Science Program, Sustainability Demonstration House, MI Tech Great Lakes Research Center

**Sustainable Living**

- Get UU Out! Snowshoe, The Belotes led a snowshoe 2'12'22 for some fresh air, exercise, and time to reflect on the beauty of the Keweenaw. The temperature was 2 degrees!
- Dare to Share and Grandparents Closet are being updated and will be available on our website just in time for all your summer visitors and yardwork.
- KUUF volunteer team at public Sustainability Events:

Seed Swap at PLD, spring '22

Waste Reduction Drive, counting sox, 4-16-22

- Adopt a Highway – no report

Budget

item requested & spent

fencing - \$170.55

seed reimbursement - \$9.53

Sus film support - \$100.00

forum supplies, Reinhardt - \$125.00

Kids RE - \$50 00

IPL kit - \$25 00

Composter (2020 budget) - \$100.00

2nd composter - \$100 00

cookbooks for Grow an Extra Row - 24.88

drip system (2022 budget) - \$125.83

TOTAL - \$529.96